

**Outrigger Telescope Project
EIS Public Scoping Meeting**
January 13, 2004
Waianae District Park, Waianae, Oahu

Facilitator Notes

Speaker # 1

- Of interest in this project is prosperity for Hawaiians.
- It's a violation of Hawaiian protocol to hold a scoping meeting here; this project is the *kuleana* of the people of the Big Island.
- Publicity for these meetings fell short; a better job if it could have resulted in more participation.

Speaker #2

- This community is not sufficiently involved to give meaningful input – it's not Oahu's *kuleana*.
- Haven't heard about the project and don't know why the EIS is being prepared.
- Hope it's not like the Makua EIS, which resulted in promises not kept by the Army and the use of mainland (unqualified) archaeologist.
- This process is *mahaoe*, like the time of the overthrow.

Speaker #3

- Cultural practitioners have already said "no more construction" on Mauna Kea.
- The fact that the CDUA permit is going forward before the EIS is complete is *hewa*, demonstrating a flawed process and puts the Hawaiians at a disadvantage.
- The history of disrespect goes back 30 years; it's not NASA's fault.
- Great science, wrong mountain.
- Elected officials have failed in their duty to deal appropriately with Mauna Kea.
- Time for the Hawaiian people to come together to form their own government.

Speaker #4

- While the resistance from the Hawaiian community is understandable, Mauna Kea is the best place on earth to do the science.
- Control pollution and deal with the issues relating to desecration.
- Basic research is essential to perpetuate life on the planet.

Speaker #5

- Mauna Kea is a sacred, special place; Hawaiians are not acting out of possessiveness but out of protectionism.
- Hawaiians share a regard for science.
- Focus is to protect the resource.
- Hawaiians understood hydrology and the dynamic relationship to our islands.
- A comprehensive EIS would be retroactive (to the 60s), prior to breaking ground.
- Consider sewage discharge and impact on water; water was used by the most respected and now it is polluted or compromised by impurities.
- Do not do an EIS as shabby as the Makua EIS.
- Who will manage this project and the associated funds?
 - o Don't go thru Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
 - o Don't go thru UH and Office of Mauna Kea Management.
 - o State entities like these have failed in the past.
 - o Need an entity that will provide a high level of accounting and transparency; maybe the Royal Order of Kamehameha.
- Make restitution to the Hawaiian people.
- Funds should come from all 13 entities on the summit.
- Develop lease/fee agreements retroactive to the beginning.
- \$1 per year to DLNR is insufficient.
- Funds could be used for a variety of rehabilitative strategies.
 - o Education in many forms.
 - o Help to form the infrastructure for the Hawaiian community.
- Use Hawaiian words properly.
- Proceeds to benefit the Hawaiian community at large.
- The Oahu community can provide input, but the decision lies with the Big Island community.

Speaker #6

- EIS shall address Hawaiian religion, which is still alive and is the driving force for our culture.
- Mauna Kea is like Mt. Fuji to the Japanese; a telescope there or on Mt. Olympus or Mt. Sinai would offend these nations.
- Need to respect Hawaiians – Why is it OK for Hawaiians to sacrifice our religion for war and science?
- People born in Hawaii also have reference for Mauna Kea; our religion did not die in the 1930s.
- Attempts to make offering to Poli`ahu and Lilinoe were not successful because of the observatory.
- Don't commit genocide against us.
- Don't take away our rights and religion.

Speaker #7

- Reference to the testimony given to NASA from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs at the Hilo meeting.
- NASA to address cumulative impacts, including past 2 Kecks, future Kecks and 4 new announced telescopes (by IfA).
 - o Cultural impacts
 - o Burial plan
 - o Site lines
 - o Waste water.
- Move one of the observatories believed to have impacted the Wekiu bug.
- The Office of Hawaiian Affairs suggests that:
 - o Cumulative impacts
 - o Community impacts
 - o Establishment of a full-time cultural monitor
 - o Establish continuous, on-going training for observatory staff
 - o The Hawaii Island Burial Council have the final say in matters relating to *iwi*
- 2.1 million dollars is insufficient; what is the true percentage of construction costs?
- Set aside 20% of construction costs (not 4%).
- NASA should use its influence to pull the CDUA permit.
- Request that NASA and UH pull the permit.
- The no-build option needs to be addressed.
- NASA needs to demonstrate that it has heard the community.
- Instead of 6 Outriggers, how about 4, 2 or none?
- Need a burial treatment plan to include inadvertent discoveries.
- \$1 million mitigation commitment by NASA currently subject to “availability of funds” – change to true commitment.
- Active practice occurs today, including keeping with religious freedom; cannot snuff the light of the navigator and replace with the light of science.

Speaker #8

- Have Hawaiian children had opportunities to learn from the other existing telescopes? If there is not a program up there, there should be.
- Religion has failed us; Gods are dead because we are in such bad shape.
- NASA is part of a play by the White House to steal money; funds going to the Carlisle Group and others.
- Can this telescope be used as a weapon on us? [Reference made to weapon in Alaska].
- Glad that the meeting is here. Every Hawaiian should know what is going on.
- Will this trigger Marshal Law? New laws will result in protest, which will in turn result in arrests.
- Jobs programs would be helpful for children.

Speaker # 9

- [NASA should] Ask the Hawaiians impacted before asking other communities.
- Enough scoping has been conducted; no more.
- What happened with the *iwi* that has been found?

Speaker #10

- Acknowledgement made to the participants who came from the Big Island to attend the Waianae meeting.
- Past mistakes and those made by other observatories need to be acknowledged; need to ask for forgiveness before doing anything more.
- Process of the telescope should not be used against us.
- EIS must be comprehensive and include the environment before the first telescope. Anything short of that is a failure.
- That the Office of Native Hawaiians has to sue to trigger the EIS is further evidence of failure.
- You control the question – “What is the impact of construction, operations?”
- Previous processes, like Makua and Stryker were thought to provide public input; however announcements made before the public comment period closed proved that the process was false.
- The public knows Mauna Kea is your first choice; is this process like the others (*shibai*)?
- Think with your *naau* (gut); how would you feel or think if you were in our shoes?
- Shouldn't the question be “Do the people of the Big Island want or need this project?”
- The mitigation measures document handed out presumes the project will go forward and that the measures listed will satisfy us. How presumptuous.
- That is how the Army, Navy, and State have treated us.
- DLNR to approve the CDUA is presumptuous.
- Important that a burial management plan not use the label “inadvertent burial” because of the resulting treatment that would be less than ideal (than if considered known).
- Known burials are the responsibility of the Hawaii Burial Council.
- Inadvertent burials become the responsibility of DLNR.
- Take the concerns heard tonight very seriously because in a few years Native Hawaiians may very well be your landlord – and we have long memories.

Speaker #11

- I support what the elders of Kona have said.
- It's good to be able to listen and learn, but the decision belongs with the Big Island.
- The people of the Big Island are not yelling; it's just that you are not listening.
- There is more than one bug on the summit; what if these bugs have healing properties and become extinct?
- Mauna Kea is part of the land that may be returned to Hawaiians; you must listen to us; in the future you may have to deal with us.

Speaker #12

- The Royal Order published a report (now available on the web) and the contents are still relevant.
- Supports science and astronomy but not at the expense of Hawaiians.
- No more development on the summit.
- The real question is about good faith.
- The first scope was OK to be built in 1968. A few years later 5 more scopes built (although the original request was for 1).
- The community is upset that the management plan has not been followed.
- Other facilities built without having to conduct an EIS.
- There is fear that astronomy will take over the mountain.
- Requests that NASA have UH pull the [Conservation District Use] permit to postpone the process for 1 year.
- If DLNR grants the permit it's likely that no conditions will be built into the permit; there's no prejudice to withdraw the permit.
- The community is facing off against litigators that are paid for by taxpayers.
- Water quality concerns.
- Lack of burial treatment plan that was promised long ago.
- Preserve the view plane and the sacredness of the mountain.
- Frustrated that for 30 years astronomers have had unfettered access, yet no promises have been kept.
- There are 26 species to be addressed in the EIS.
- To compromise at this stage would result in 30 more years of risk.
- It's not fair to ask the community to compromise any further.
- Cannot support further development; more data needed.
- The Wekiu bug mitigation plan has never been tested.
- NASA should support
 - o The creation of a management authority to take control from UH
 - o Ceded land lease agreement to fairly reflect value
 - o Funds for NARS/DOCAR officers
 - o Funds to all students and related programs (volcanology, Hawaiian language, math, geology)
 - o Tuition waivers and scholarships
 - o Support charter schools and preschools
 - o (These last 5 items should be assessed immediately, without regard to further development).
- If Mauna Kea is a premier site, why is not rent being paid?
- The \$1 per year goes to UH, not the State.
- Not all observatories fulfill 5-F goals.
- Lease conditions require that land be put back to original condition by 2040, with the lease being up in 2033.
- Who is going to pay for this?
- Will it be like other efforts and left uncared for, leaving it to the taxpayers?
- UH cannot say who can or cannot enter the summit to observe cultural practices.
- It'd be easier to say yes, (than to fight you) but it wouldn't be *pono*.
- Now that you know better, do a better job or you will face the consequences.

Speaker #13

- It's easy to complain and be angry; a proposal that can be advanced deserving of honor, respect and serious consideration.
- Each time the Federal government or military impose their will, there is a loss of humanity for people at the top; it makes it difficult to sit down to work things through.
- Do the right thing, the humane thing.
- We hope you take on the guys above you to do the right thing; we'll help you take on the guys above you to do the right thing.
- This won't fix the process but will make things better for our children.

Speaker #14

- Scoping process notice too short; releasing during the holidays makes it difficult to get the word out.
- The CDUA moving forward before the EIS echoes what happened with Makua and Stryker.
- Need a comprehensive management plan before moving forward.
- The agency proposing the action did not ask permission first.
- They also did not see the humanity or respect of the situation; they had to be sued to do the EIS.
- Are previous studies available for inspection?
- Concerned about the quality of studies to be done.
- What the *aina* and people need should drive the process – not the timeline set out by the process.
- Support the people of Hawaii by allowing no further desecration.
- The scoping process is used as a weapon against us.
- The military relationship needs to be explained.
- The funds have to be tracked (from Federal government, to NASA to?).
- If the telescope were used for military purposes would that be in violation of international law?
- Who are the other users and what is their relationship to the military?
- Language used to describe astronomy is couched in terms of “discovery”, which is a bad word for Hawaiians, equals erasure (e.g., Captain Cook).
- Why do the values of some supercede the values of others who have been there for thousands of years?
- Protections afforded to churches and other religious places of worship, but not to Mauna Kea; what mitigation will atone for the desecration there?
- Criminal/hate crimes – consider these in light of past desecrations on the site.
- What acts of violence have been committed and repeated – take into account the impact on the opposition [the community]; how many enemies can you afford to make?
- Assess cumulative impacts; this will protect the site, the whole mountain.
- Make sure that applicable laws are applied in regards to contaminants, toxic spills, and waste disposal.
- Environmental justice needs to be prominent in the EIS; 100 years of injustice cannot be ignored.
- Look at the historical harm and repair the relationships.

Speaker #15

- We love Mauna Kea and are in opposition to expansion that would affect view planes, sprawl and damage to the Wekiu habitat.
- However it's used, it is subject to the views of the people.
- Show the community the process used to incorporate the input received to date via these scoping meetings and the EA process.
- Show the alternative of no expansion (to use existing resources and to build goodwill).
- Provide research already done to the people.
- No development is the preferred option.

Speaker #16

- NASA should remove existing telescopes.
- There have been mercury spills and other impacts – whether witnessed or not.
- The Wekiu should not be killed as part of studying.

Speaker #17

- It's important to note that mitigation measures, including educational options and facilities, while good, do not heal the harm that's been done.
- Consider the proposal set forth by Kealoha.
- The only way to stop the harm is to stop the project.

Speaker #18

- Further development means a compromise of culture.
- Pull the permit.

Speaker #19

- The Hawaiian people have a system that flows from the Gods to the land; the community will lose respect for NASA if they do not respect what's been said.
- The mountain is so sacred, to use it is *hewa*; the process has been *hewa* from the start.